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TELESYNERGY™

CIT Signals Better Medicine

Imagine this. A radiologist in Belfast City Hospital, Belfast Northern Ireland needs a specialist to review his patient's CAT scan. But the specialist he'd like to consult is at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda Maryland. Similarly, a physician at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center who is participating in a joint residency program in radiation oncology with the NIH Clinical Center is unable to attend an on-site meeting at the NIH.

Even in the Washington metropolitan area, an area graced with outstanding medical care and research facilities, access to specialized medical expertise is limited by time and geography. If a specialist is asked to consult on your case, and that consultation requires a review of medical images, you have two choices -- hand-carry your film or wait for third party delivery. Today, thanks to pioneering collaboration by CIT scientists and their partners at the

NIH, researchers and doctors now have access to the technology that will bridge this gap.

Eight years ago a team of forward-looking computer scientists at CIT's Division of Computational Bioscience (DCB) began their research. Led by Ken Kempner, the team sought to merge the very best telecommunications technology with medical research. The goal was to transmit high-quality, high-resolution medical images throughout the world. By leveling the barriers of time and geography, patients and their families would have instant access to medical and professional expertise.

This goal is within reach.

Working closely with National Cancer Institute and Clinical Center scientists, the CIT team has been able to adapt telemedicine and collaborative



Some of the TELESYNERGY™ team: David Chow (left)
Anita Mahone (center) and Michael Steele (right)

technologies to allow health care providers in remote locations to give real-time treatment to patients. This technology, TELESYNERGY™, also enables scientists to collaborate on research projects from geographically distributed sites.

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From the Director

Al Graeff Introduces "The Center Link"

TELESYNERGY™

Continued

As summarized in a NCI website, "About Partnerships in Science™ and TELESYNERGY™",

TELESYNERGY™ is a medical consultation workstation that allows a face-to-face consultation among participants. The workstation includes a multimedia imaging station that transmits simultaneous high-resolution images to all sites participating in the consultation for evaluation. Other features permit oncologists at remote sites to assess biopsy tissue via a remote-controlled microscope, while a camera-system transmits high-resolution images of physical symptoms.

Dear CIT Colleagues,

Last January, at our CIT Awards Ceremony, I spoke about the need to encourage communication across CIT. I emphasized how important it was for us to see ourselves as part of a hard working, exciting team. In order to achieve our CIT vision - to be a vital partner in the discovery of medical knowledge - we need to share information and share solutions.

This internal publication is for all of us to enjoy and we hope it will encourage communication across CIT.

"The Center Link" will celebrate the people that come to work here each day and do their part (and more) to make the CIT vision happen.

"The Center Link" will make us more aware of the important contributions we all make, not just to the missions of the Center and NIH, but also to our communities outside of work.

In this inaugural issue, and in the issues to follow, I invite you to discover the people and the programs that make CIT an IT center of excellence at the NIH. Enjoy.



Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, Acting Director, NIH presents CIT's Ken Kempner (center) with the NIH Director's Award (July 11, 2001) Al Graeff, CIO, NIH, and Director, CIT, (right)

The partnership between CIT and NCI couldn't have developed at a better time. In the spring of 1999, Dr. Norman Coleman and Dr. Frank Govern were recruited from Harvard Medical School to organize and manage NCI's Radiation Oncology Science Program (ROSP), particularly in the area of outreach. As Ken

Kempner says, "They had a problem in search of a solution. We had a solution in search of the right problem." What initially began as a deployable prototype for a radiation oncology joint residency program between NIH, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and the National Naval Medical Center has now blossomed into several important outreach efforts.

TELESYNERGY™ is allowing NCI researchers to reach out to distant community hospitals. For example, patients in remote areas are now able to participate in selected NCI phase I and phase II protocols. Because of TELESYNERGY™, NCI plans to increase patient participation in its clinical trials. TELESYNERGY™ has been

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staff profiles



Profile: Sharon Williams-Abdullah

Hobbies? Roller-skating and any activity that

How did you get to CIT?

By way of the FDA

includes my daughter

Favorite Operating System? MS

Windows

Favorite book? Nathan McCall Makes Me Wanna Holler

Favorite tree, plant, or flower? Lilies

Favorite boss at NIH? "They've all been great"

Favorite color? Mint Green

Favorite food? Steamed Crabs

Favorite vacation spot? Florida

Favorite holiday? Christmas

Favorite beverage? Pepsi

What is your most important goal at CIT?

To succeed and excel in any tasks given big or small

How would you describe your parent or parents?

My mom is a great Christian role model, a great cook and a perfect friend.

Dream car? No car payment

First car? Hyundai Excel 2 door hatch back

What is most important to you? My Family

It's not easy making the work look easy but at CIT that's what the very best Staff Program - Special - Executive and Administrative Assistants do. Instead

of assistants, perhaps these professionals should be called navigators, or organizers, or facilitators, or crisis managers, or a host of other titles that better describe their work. And of course, making it work well at CIT means mastering the details.



Mattie Simms, FMO Budget Analyst, and Sharon Williams-Abdullah process and log in an inter-agency agreement

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staff profiles

For Sharon Williams-Abdullah, Staff Assistant to CIT Executive Officer (EO) Mitch Levine, mastering the details is an everyday challenge that she enjoys. The quick pace and fluid assignments within the EO offer Sharon many challenges, and give her plenty of opportunity for professional growth. Still, at the end of a busy CIT day, Sharon manages to find plenty of time (and energy) for her #1 priority, her family.

Many CIT'ers will recognize Sharon as the never harried, always calm person who works directly outside Mitch Levine's office on the 3rd floor of Building 12A. If Sharon is not in her office, look for her down the hall in the Financial Management Office

(FMO). Sharon works directly with the staff of the FMO on many aspects of financial management for CIT, including the clearance process for the budget office, billing procedures and protocols.

Or perhaps you recognize Sharon from last year's CIT Picnic? Last year Sharon and her CIT pals (Chris Bolling, Stephanie Greenleaf, Shayla Hart, Alfreda Layne, Debbie Martin, Brenda McCarthy, Quynn Nguyen, Andrea Redmond, Mattie Simms and Chantel Walker) played a major role in making the picnic a success by organizing and staffing several bake sales to raise the deposit

money required by the picnic caterer. These CITers made that look easy too with a little, er, "rising" help from their talented mothers and grandmothers, who lent their time and talents to



Mitch Levine

the bake sale effort!

Remember, we never said that being an Assistant was easy. We said that CIT professionals like Sharon Williams-Abdullah make it look easy.



Some of Sharon's best pals enjoying themselves at the CIT 2001 Picnic

CIT 2000 PICNIC PALS

Chris Bolling (special cakes & pies)
Stephanie Greenleaf
Shayla Hart
Alfreda Layne
Debbie Martin
Brenda McCarthy (homemade bread)
Quynn Nguyen
Andrea Redmond
Mattie Simms (special cakes)
Chantel Walker

RISING MOMS & GRANDMOMS

Mrs. Contee (Linda's mom)
Mrs. Hart (Shayla's mom)
Mrs. Brown (Andrea's grandmother)



TELESYNERGY™

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Telecommunications is a critical component of this tri-lateral agreement, and TELESYNERGY™ has been selected as the principal telecommunication component. The system was demonstrated (via an ISDN communication link) during the first NCI All Ireland Cancer Consortium Conference in Belfast, Northern Ireland in October of 1999. Installations are currently planned for St. Luke's Hospital (Dublin, Republic of Ireland) and Belfast City Hospital (Belfast, Northern Ireland).

selected as the required telemedicine component at several partnership sites. Installation has been completed at Holy Cross Hospital (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and is planned for Wheeling Hospital (Wheeling, WV).

The current DCB TELESYNERGY™ research team of Ken Kempner, David Chow, Michael Steele and Nasser Ghazanfari are building upon this success, together with Anita Mahone, an NCI team member. Today TELESYNERGY™ supports other NCI initiatives. A brief look at just one initiative illustrates the possibilities of TELESYNERGY™.

The NCI All Ireland Cancer Consortium is a groundbreaking partnership on a politically divided island with a long history of social and political turmoil. In a historic opportunity for all of the Irish people, the Republic of Ireland-Northern Ireland-NCI Cancer Consortium represents a five-year agreement for a comprehensive approach to cancer treatment and prevention in Ireland.

Sometimes it's difficult to translate the impact of a technology like TELESYNERGY™ into ordinary lives. But it's great to imagine what can be. We don't know the names and faces yet of the Irish patients and families

who will receive assistance via TELESYNERGY™, but it's easy to imagine the relief they will feel when their physicians are able to directly access NIH's world-class resources in medicine and research. So, will CIT's TELESYNERGY™ make a difference? Kempner, his CIT team, their NCI and other partners are confident about that final answer. TELESYNERGY™ is a significant step towards a better future, where quality health care resources are available, regardless of time and geography, and where the pace of medical discovery will continue to accelerate.





After the Logoff

CIT stories of conviction,
compassion, and community



*Call him "Coach," Call him "Commissioner",
but please don't call him after 10:00 p.m.*



CIT's John Burke tried hard to politely say, "no thanks" when he was tracked down for an "after-the-logoff" story. He mumbled something about tight deadlines, budget spreadsheets

they're the first to be "benched" when he needs playing time for other kids. John also confesses that he is a big believer in having fun rather than yelling, and that while he enjoys a good win as much as the next coach, he's not "overly competitive."

John's volunteer commitment goes all year, with intensive weeks of organizing and coordinating. After the rosters are final, the uniforms and equipment are distributed, the coaches are certified, and the schedules are set, it's game time. "That's the real reward for volunteer hours ... the kids get to play ... and there are so many people who volunteer to make it happen."

Yes, as a parent, a coach, a volunteer, John has heard the crowd roar. He's seen championships won and lost, kids smile in triumph, and console each other in defeat.

and "the BOG", then poured himself another cup of sugary coffee. Eventually he offered up the following ...

CYO stands for the Catholic Youth Organization, and St. Jane de Chantal School is a Catholic elementary school about a mile away from the main campus of NIH. At St. Jane's, every child who wishes to can play a sport, and the CYO program accommodates all skill levels. For example, last year roughly 325 kids from grades K-8 played fall soccer, and that's from a total enrollment of 525.

Eight years ago John began to contribute his time and energy to St. Jane's CYO sports program as a parent, fan, and coach. For the past three years John has continued to coach while also serving on St. Jane's CYO Board of Directors and as St. Jane's CYO Soccer Commissioner.

John started to coach because in his words, "I just wanted to be involved in my kids lives." John admits that when he coaches his own kids, John (recent eighth grade graduate) and Bridget (fifth grade),



And that's why he does it. So, call John Burke for a budget number, call him Coach, call him Commissioner, but please, don't call him after 10:00 p.m. He really needs his rest for his day job, when just saying what he does (CIT, OD, EO, Financial Management Office, Supervisory Financial Management Analyst) takes a lot of wind.

CIT 2001 Picnic

Can you say llama?

The picnic report is in . . . very few bees
and one skinned knee . . .

The CIT 2001 Picnic kicked off in fine fashion at high noon on Wednesday, June 20th. NIH's Lot 41C was transformed from a sleepy corner of the campus into a hive of good-natured activity. Despite "Code Orange" weather warnings, hundreds of CIT folks and their families enjoyed traditional picnic fare on a bright and warm (o.k. very warm) day. With the power of positive thinking in all the right places there wasn't a hint of rain.

Maybe "Hot Spot" and "Dot" brought the weather luck. CIT's Dale Graham took time out from her regular CIT role as a web database programmer and computational biologist and shared her companion animals with an appreciative crowd. "Hot Spot" the llama and "Dot" the Jack Russell terrier were animal emissaries of charm and good cheer. In addition to amazing animals, the 2001 Picnic featured plenty of picnic fare, a moonbounce, face-painting, temporary tattoos, beach balls and toys, and a first-time ever CIT relay challenge.

Howard Willis's hardworking catering staff traveled from Purcellville Virginia to set up and serve a "Sweet T's" spread featuring beef barbecue, fried chicken, hotdogs, salad side dishes, and desserts. Thanks to CIT's Sophie Parker for generously adding fresh melons and cookies to the table.



"Jump On This"

staff brought the moonbounce "Castle" and CIT volunteer Roger Garcia helped set it up on the tennis courts. Throughout the picnic, children of all ages bounced with abandon. On the other side of the picnic grounds, under her very own deep green awning, CIT volunteer Lynne Pusanik made countless children shine with terrific face-painting and (temporary) tattoo applications. Lynne had

help from CIT teen volunteers Kathi and Taylor Herrgott. The Herrgott sisters followed in their mother's footsteps by lending their time and talents to the picnic. Yes, their mother, CITer Susan Chaffee is very proud, and very sore. If you thought the one skinned knee belonged to the 12 and under set, guess again.

As the picnic drew to a close, Marie Lagana, OPEC Director, presented the first ever CIT relay challenge trophy to a spirited DCB crew. They'll defend it next year!

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Again, many thanks go to all CIT 2001 Picnic volunteers, with particular thanks to CIT volunteers Esther Asaki and Judy Fabrikant for their generous "end-of-the-day" assistance. Whether you played a role large or small, it all added up to a fun day in the sun.

CIT 2001 Picnic Volunteers:

- Marie Lagana and her staff in OPEC: Howard Austin, Susan Chaffee, Bonnie Douglas, Michele Mulholland France, Lanny Newman, Paula Ptacek, and Kevin Sullivan
- Dale Graham and her companion animals, Hot Spot (the llama) and Dot (the Jack Russell terrier)
- Martha Alliston, Carrie Anderson, Esther Asaki, Steve Bailey, Richard Barnes, Kathy Bauman, Cressie DeRose, Judy Fabrikant, Roger Garcia, Julie Harris, Kathi Herrgott, Taylor Herrgott, Dave Hunter, Pat Newman, Darrin Pape, Lynne Pusanik, Jennifer Riewerts, Mark Silverman, Peter Steinbach, and Shanelle Tigner.

Center Link News

CIT Employee Feedback Forum

Would you like to help make CIT a better place to work? Do you have a question or a concern, a suggestion or a problem? If you do, Mitch Levine, CIT Executive Officer, wants to hear from you.

All CIT employees (and that includes all contractors!) are invited to submit their comments to Mitch Levine by either "snail" or e-mail. Your written comments can be placed in the **CIT Suggestion Box** currently located at the East Entrance of Building 12A. E-mail comments can be sent from your own e-mail address, or if you wish, **anonymously** through the "**CIT Employee Feedback Forum**" at: <https://citinfo.cit.nih.gov/cit/form.html>

Mitch will review and respond to each received item. Of course, e-mails received anonymously will be answered globally rather than directly.

Remember the CIT Employee Feedback Forum is for you. Your participation will help make CIT a better workplace for all. Thanks!

What's in your future? Choose to Save and Invest

Did you know that you can purchase U.S. Savings Bonds through your payroll savings plan?

This hassle-free way to accumulate wealth puts your money into a secure, risk-free investment. U.S. Savings Bonds can help you plan for your future and your children's future. Just visit the NIH U.S. Savings Bond Program website at www1.od.nih.gov/ohrm/bonds/, or for more information call CIT's Stephanie Greenleaf at 301.496.4647.

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